

THIS AS *****

REFERENCE TO TALKS SUSPENSION

TAB 1930 JERUSALEM DOMESTIC SERVICE IN HEBREW 1132 GMT 23 MAR 75 YA

(ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN'S STATEMENT AT THE OPENING OF PRESS CONFERENCE AT BOT ABRAH IN JERUSALEM--LIVE)

(TEXT) LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: THE TALKS ON PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE STEP BY STEP BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED. AS IS KNOWN, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO TRY TO ADVANCE TOWARD PEACE WITH EGYPT IN STAGES. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TALKS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, AND PARTICULARLY IN A MORE INTENSIVE MANNER IN THE PAST 2 WEEKS, ISRAEL HAS INTRODUCED TWO BASIC POSSIBILITIES TO ADVANCE TOWARD PEACE IN STAGES. THE BROADER POSSIBILITY WOULD REQUIRE THAT EGYPT AGREE TO END THE STATE OF WAR AND IN RETURN ISRAEL WOULD EVACUATE THE AREA FROM THE PRESENT LINE EASTWARD ACROSS THE MITLA AND JIODI PASSES AND THE CENTRAL MOUNTAIN RANGE WHICH BLOCKS THE ADVANCE ROUTES FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE SUEZ CANAL TO THE SINAI AREA, AND THE OILFIELDS IN ABU RUDAYS AND SOUTHWARD.

WHEN EGYPT CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THE READINESS, ON THE PROPOSAL, TO END THE STATE OF WAR, ISRAEL OFFERED A SECOND PROPOSAL PROVIDING THAT IN RETURN FOR SOMETHING WHICH DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN END TO THE STATE OF WAR, WHICH MAINTAINS THE STATE OF WAR BUT WITH THE IMPOSITION OF CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF FORCE, ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE LINE IT IS HOLDING NOW TO THE CENTRAL PART OF THE PASSES AND RETURN THE OILFIELDS IN ABU RUDAYS TO EGYPT. THIS PROPOSAL TOO, WAS REJECTED BY EGYPT.

IN THE COURSE OF THE TALKS--AND AS IT IS KNOWN THE TALKS WERE NOT HELD FACE TO FACE BUT THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE DR KISSINGER, WHO HAS CARRIED OUT HIS TASK FAITHFULLY--IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THERE ARE SUBSTANTIVE AND GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFERENCES OF OPINION REGARDING THE SECOND PROPOSAL.

WHAT WERE THE BASIC DIFFERENCES OF OPINION? THE FIRST POINT RELATES THE NATURE OF THE AGREEMENT. EGYPT SAW IN IT A FURTHER MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. ISRAEL INSISTED THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE OF A POLITICAL NATURE, SINCE, AFTER ALL, WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POLICY OF STEP-BY-STEP PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE? THAT EVERY STEP SHOULD HAVE NOT ONLY A MILITARY ELEMENT BUT ALSO INCLUDE AN ELEMENT THAT INDICATES PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. EGYPT HAS NOT SHOWN ANY READINESS TO ADVANCE IN ANY AREA RELATING TO PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN CONCRETE EXPRESSIONS, SUCH AS OPEN BRIDGES FOR TOURISTS, RESTRICTIONS--NOT ELIMINATION--OF HOSTILE PROPAGANDA, THE ECONOMIC BOYCOTT, AND SO FORTH.

THE OTHER ASPECT WAS THAT IF THERE IS LOGIC IN THE AGREEMENT OF A STEP TOWARD PEACE, IT SHOULD ESTABLISH INITIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE SIDES. THE EGYPTIANS ONLY AGREED TO A COMMITTEE ALONG THE LINES OF AN ARMISTICE COMMITTEE OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

NOTED: No Objection to Declassification in Full 2010/07/30 : LOC-HAK-157-3-32-9
THE DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSAL THAT IF THE PURPOSE IS INDEED TO ADVANCE
TOWARD PEACE, THE POSITION IN WHICH THE ARAB STATES WOULD BE
US FORCES WITHIN HALF A YEAR TO ONE YEAR, AND DEMANDS
ITS RENEWAL EVERY YEAR.

THE ADDITIONAL ISSUE IS CONNECTED WITH THE QUESTION OF WHAT
WOULD BE THE LINES IN RETURN FOR THE NEGLIGIBLE POLITICAL GUID
PRO QVO. IN EFFECT, EGYPT DEMANDED TWO POSSIBILITIES: ONE WAS THAT
THE TWO SIDES PULLBACK EQUAL DISTANCES--ISRAEL EASTWARD FROM THE
EASTERN PART OF THE PASSES AND EGYPT WESTWARD FROM THE WESTERN
PART OF THE PASSES BY MORE OR LESS THE SAME DISTANCE, WITH THE
UN FORCES IN THE MIDDLE. THAT IS TO SAY, TOTAL ISRAELI EVACUATION
OF ALL THE AREA OF THE PASSES, THE OILFIELDS IN ABU RUDAYS, AND
SOUTHWARD UP TO AT-TUR, AND TURNING THE ENTIRE AREA FROM SUZ
CITY TO AT-TUR ALONG THE GULF OF SUZ OVER TO EGYPTIAN CONTROL.

(MORE)

23 MAR 1957Z DBT/GWG*****

THIS 49

ONLY ADD 49 (RABIN PRESS CONFERENCE)

XXX TO EGYPTIAN CONTROL.

(TEXT) UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, IN WHICH IN FACT EGYPTIAN
PROPOSALS INCLUDED ON THEIR PART A DEMAND FOR SUBSTANTIAL WITHDRAWAL
AND THE POLITICAL GUID PRO QVO WAS ALMOST NEGLIGIBLE, ISRAEL REGARDED
THESE PROPOSALS NOT AS A STEP TOWARD PEACE BUT ACTUALLY AN
UNILATERAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. THEREFORE, WE COULD NOT ACCEPT

THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS, AND THE EGYPTIANS REJECTED THE ISRAEL
PROPOSALS WHICH PROVIDED FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM HALF OF THE AREA
OF THE PASSES AND THE RETURN OF THE OILFIELDS IN ABU RUDAYS TO EGYPT.

I PERSONALLY AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE SORRY FOR THAT.
WE HAVE SEEN IN THIS DIRECTION A PROSPECT FOR ADVANCING TOWARD
PEACE WITH THE PRINCIPAL STATE IN THE ARAB WORLD. ISRAEL WILL
CONTINUE TO SEEK EVERY WAY TO ADVANCE TOWARD PEACE. ISRAEL
WILL HONOR ALL ITS OBLIGATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENTS WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA AND THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT ON
THE JORDAN LINE AND ON THE LEBANESE BORDER AS LONG AS THESE AGREEMENTS

ARE MUTUALLY RESPECTED BETWEEN US AND EACH ONE OF THE STATES
WITH WHICH WE HAVE SUCH AGREEMENTS.

I WANT TO END BY SAYING THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS MADE
AND WILL DEFINITELY CONTINUE TO MAKE A GREAT EFFORT TO BRING
ABOUT PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BY VIRTUE OF
ITS POLICY IS A BIG POWER THAT STRIVES FOR PEACE IN OUR REGION.
ISRAEL HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE U.S.
PEOPLE, THE U.S. CONGRESS, THE U.S. PRESIDENT, AND THE SECRETARY OF
STATE. ON THIS OCCASION I WANT TO THANK THE U.S. GOVERNMENT,
THE U.S. PRESIDENT, AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THEIR GREAT HELP
TO ISRAEL THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, FOR THEIR UNTIRING EFFORTS TO
EXPLORE EVERY POSSIBLE WAY TO ADVANCE TOWARD PEACE. I HOPE AND
TRUST ALL OF US THAT WAYS AND A SUITABLE FRAMEWORK WILL BE
FOUNDED TO ADVANCE TOWARD PEACE, SINCE THIS IS THE DESIRE OF
ISRAEL--TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY.

(ENDALL)

23 MAR 1957Z DBT/GWG